KODANSHA COMICS

CHAPTER 179

KEI SASUGA

I DON'T SEE HER AS ANYTHING MORE THAN A FRIEND.

I'M SURE SHE FEELS THE SAME WAY ABOUT ME.

CHAPTER 179: SOMEONE LIKE YOU

KEI SASUGA

I HEARD IT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH.

I DON'T MAKE BASELESS ASSUMPTIONS, YOU KNOW.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHAT ...

...MAKES YOU SAY THAT?

HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?

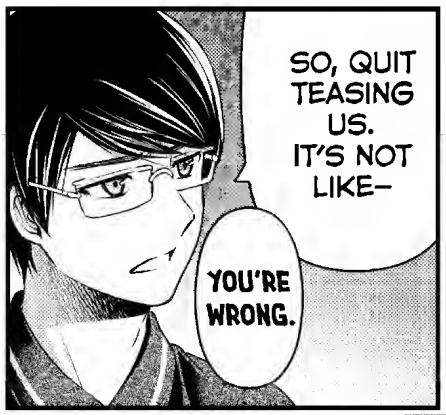
HERE.

THIS IS FOR YOU.

THIS YEAR, ON VALENTINE'S DAY...

I...I WANTED TO GIVE SOMEONE ELSE CHOCOLATES, SO I FIGURED YOU MIGHT WANT SOME, TOO!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT GETTING ME ANYTHING BACK, OKAY?
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AS CLUB PRESIDENT, OKAY?

HUH?
IT'S VALEN-TINE'S DAY, RIGHT?
SO...


SO, QUIT TEASING US. IT'S NOT LIKE—
YOU'RE WRONG.

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OOF...
SERIOUSLY, KABASAWA-SAN...? I KNOW YOU WERE EMBAR-RASSED, BUT COME ON.
SHE MADE IT PRETTY CLEAR THAT THEY WERE JUST FRIENDSHIP CHOCOLATES.

THAT SCARED ME!
HUH ...?
C-COVER?
I'VE BEEN IN HER SHOES.
THE OLD "I DON'T WANNA GET REJECTED, SO I'LL JUST PRETEND IT'S NO BIG DEAL" ACT...

THAT ...
New yorl City
ゆらり
WOBBLE...
...WAS A COVER.
ビクッ
TWITCH

BECAUSE OF THAT, I GOT CROSSED OFF THE "POTENTIAL GIRLFRIENDS" LIST,
I WUV YOU.
AND WAS BASICALLY TURNED DOWN BEFORE I EVEN CONFESSED!
DON'T JUST TAKE HER WORDS AT FACE VALUE! LOOK HER IN THE EYE!
GRAB
IF HER EYES LIGHT UP WHEN YOU GUYS TALK, THAT'S A CLEAR SIGN SHE'S INTO YOU!
LOOK FOR THAT BEFORE YOU JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS...
GRAB
SORRY FOR THE INTERRUPTION.
HRR
GRR
GRR
GRR
WE CAN'T TAKE OUR EYES OFF HER FOR A SECOND...
I THINK YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH, CHIKA.
QUIT BUGGING THE YOUNGSTERS WITH YOUR DRUNKEN RAMBLING.
AND ANOTHER THING! THAT WHOLE "SHE'S JUST A CLASSMATE" ATTITUDE IS JUST A SELF-DEFENSE MECHANISM!
HOW LONG HAS SHE BEEN LISTENING...?
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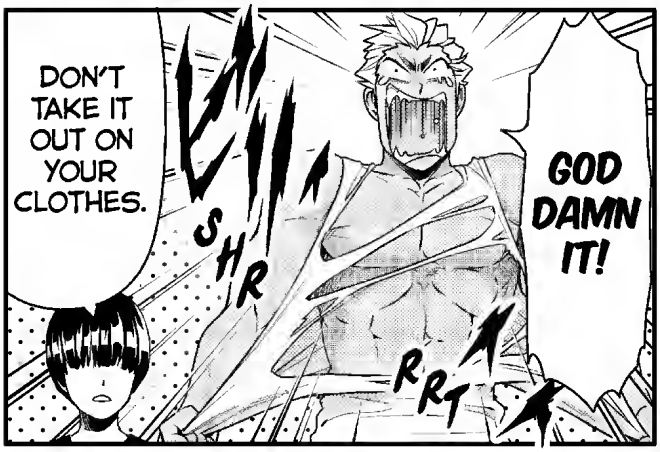
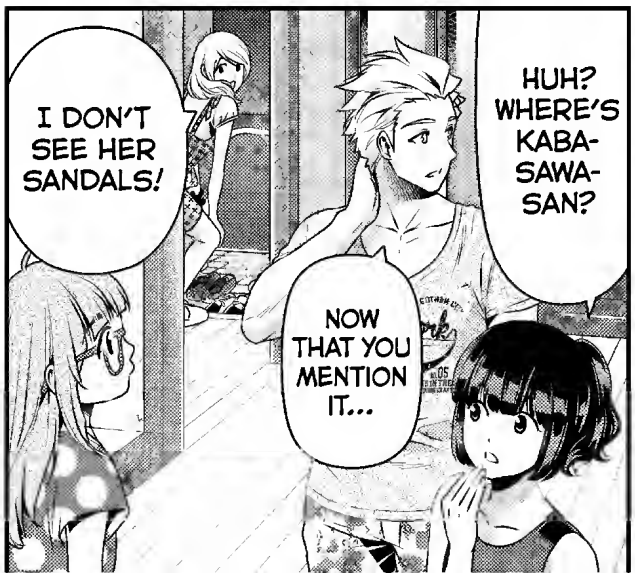
I GUESS IT WAS GOOD ADVICE, THOUGH.

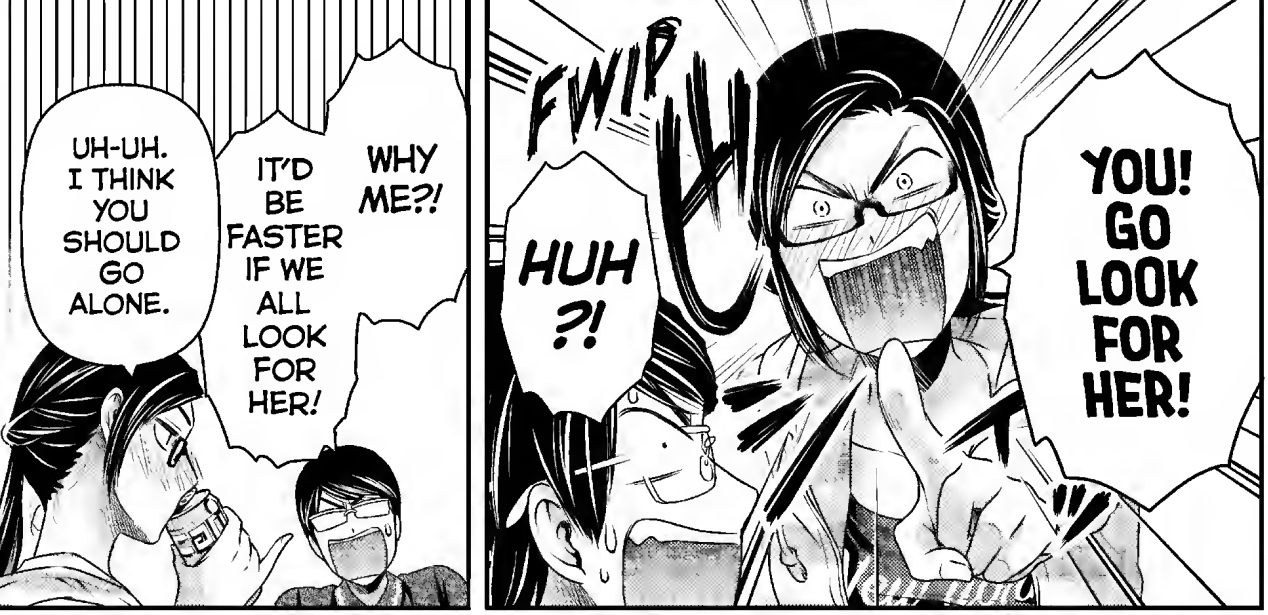
DID YOU GET LOVEY-DOVEY IN THE WOODS ?!
LOOKS LIKE YOU TWO HAD A GOOD WALK.

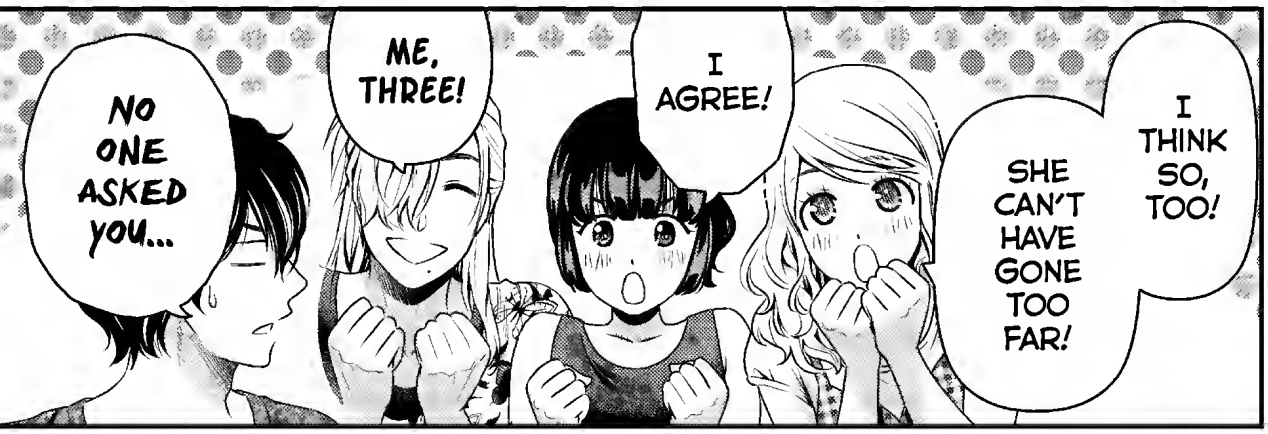
WE'RE BACK!
OTIS AFB
FALMOUTH, MASS


DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON YOUR CLOTHES.
GOD DAMN IT!
SHR
RRT


I DON'T SEE HER SANDALS!
HUH? WHERE'S KABA-SAWA-SAN?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

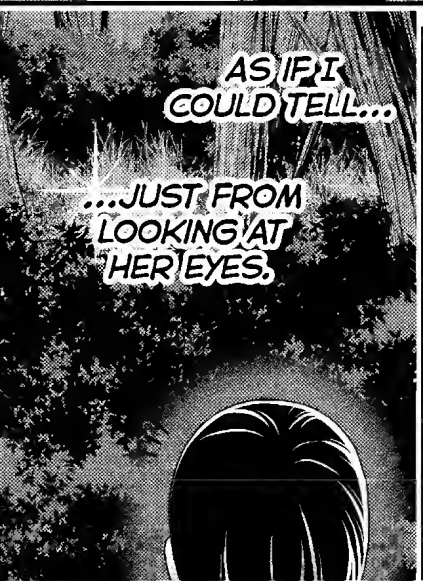
I WANNA LOCK THE HOUSE UP SOON.
IS EVERY-ONE BACK?


WHY ME?!
IT'D BE FASTER IF WE ALL LOOK FOR HER!
UH-UH. I THINK YOU SHOULD GO ALONE.
FWIP
HUH?!
YOU! GO LOOK FOR HER!


NO ONE ASKED YOU...
ME, THREE!
I AGREE!
I THINK SO, TOO!
SHE CAN'T HAVE GONE TOO FAR!

IF THEY KEEP TEASING US, IT'S JUST GONNA MAKE IT HARDER TO WORK ON THE CLUB ANTHOLOGY TOGETHER.
I SWEAR, DO PEOPLE WITH THIS MUCH TIME ON THEIR HANDS ONLY CARE ABOUT ROMANCE?

GO GET HER!
WHAT'S THEIR DEAL?!


AS IF I COULD TELL...
...JUST FROM LOOKING AT HER EYES.

IF SHE DROPPED THIS HERE,
DOES THAT MEAN SHE WENT INTO THE WOODS?
WHY ...?
ISN'T THIS ...?
I HAVE TO DRY MY EYES.
I CAN'T GO BACK LOOKING LIKE THIS.
I SHOULD'VE BROUGHT MORE TISSUES WITH ME ...
I FORGOT SNOT AND TEARS ALWAYS TRAVEL TOGETHER!
ビーフWEEE
AND I DEFINITELY DON'T WANT SHIBASAKI-KUN...
...TO KNOW I WAS CRYING.
KABA-SAWA?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
...WERE YOU CRYING?
DON'T LOOK!
FWIP
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT HAP-PENED?
NOTH-ING!
I'M FINE!
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, OKAY?!

O-
OKAY...
OH.
THAT SO?
WELL, LET'S HURRY ON BACK.
EVERY-ONE'S WORRIED.
HUH?
RSTL
RSTL
SORRY, I WAS KINDA RUNNING AIMLESSLY...
I DON'T REMEMBER WALKING THIS FAR...
HEY, KABASAWA. HOW'D YOU GET THERE FROM THE COTTAGE?
WE'RE IN THE MOUNTAINS! WHAT IF YOU RAN OFF A CLIFF?!
IS IT THE PATH?!
OH, HEY. IT'S MORE OPEN OVER THAT WAY.
WELL, I GUESS I'M NOT ONE TO TALK.

WELL, AT LEAST WE'RE BACK ON THE PATH.
WE SHOULD FIND OUR WAY BACK IF WE FOLLOW IT.

WAIT!

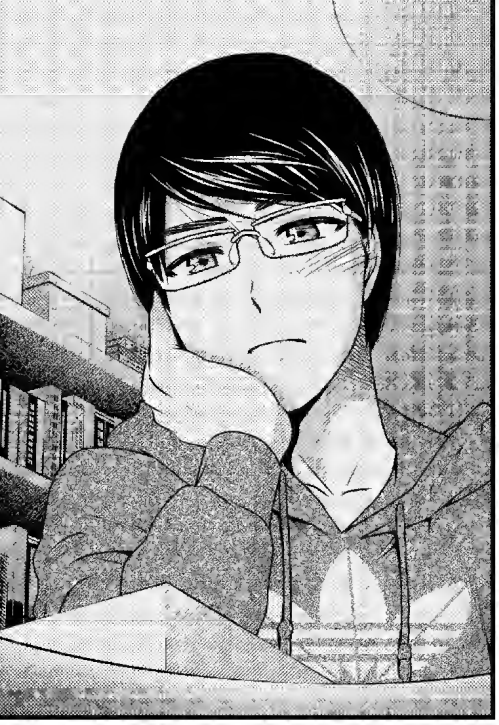
DO YOU THINK THIS IS THE SHRINE THAT COLLEGE GIRL MENTIONED?!
THE MATCH-MAKING ONE!
OH, YEAH...

A SHRINE?
IT'S PRETTY TINY.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I WONDER WHAT IT'S A SHRINE TO. I DON'T SEE A SIGN...
OH!

CAN WE STAY FOR A MINUTE?
I WANT TO PRAY AT THE SHRINE ...
CLAP
ぱん
CLAP
ぱん
ONE MINUTE LATER
TWO MINUTES LATER
HUH?
WHAT'S TAKING HER SO LONG?!

SHE HAS PRETTY LONG EYE-LASHES...
THANKS FOR WAITING.
N-
NO PROB-LEM.
AT FIRST,
I THINK IT WAS MOSTLY GUILT I FELT.
I COULDN'T HELP BUT FEEL BAD ABOUT WHAT HAP-PENED...
...BETWEEN MY DAD AND HIS FATHER'S COMPANY,
SO I WAS ALWAYS A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT HIM.
I'M SURE THINGS COULDN'T HAVE BEEN EASY...
...AFTER HIS FATHER'S COMPANY WENT UNDER.
BUT SHIBASAKI-KUN STILL NEVER MISSED A DAY OF SCHOOL.

HE HAD THIS ...
...ALMOST DIVINE AURA TO HIM.
AND EVERY DAY, HE'D GO TO THE LIBRARY,
WHERE HE'D POUR EVERY-THING INTO HIS WRITING.
THAT WAS A COVER!
AND YOUR "SHE'S JUST A CLASSMATE" ATTITUDE IS JUST A SELF-DEFENSE MECHANISM!
THINKING BACK ON IT, I THINK THAT WAS WHEN I...

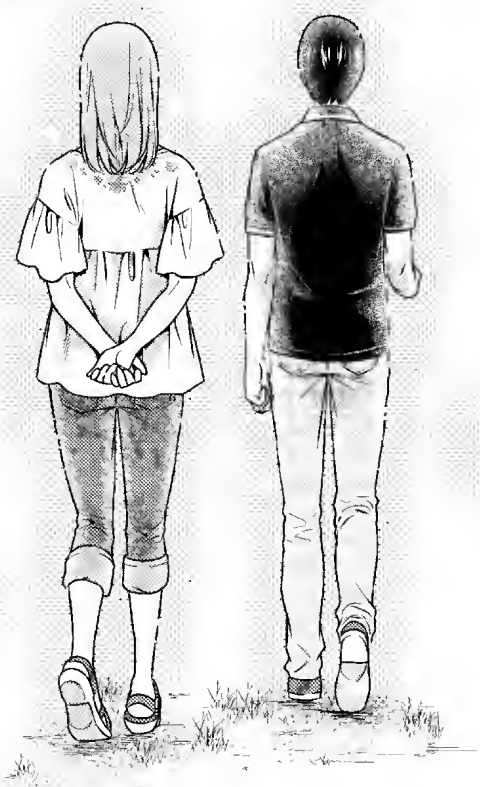


HEY, SUBARU. DID YOU GET ANY CHOCOLATE?
JUST FROM A FRIEND.
AWW. SUCKS TO BE MR. UNPOPU-LAR.
SHUT UP.

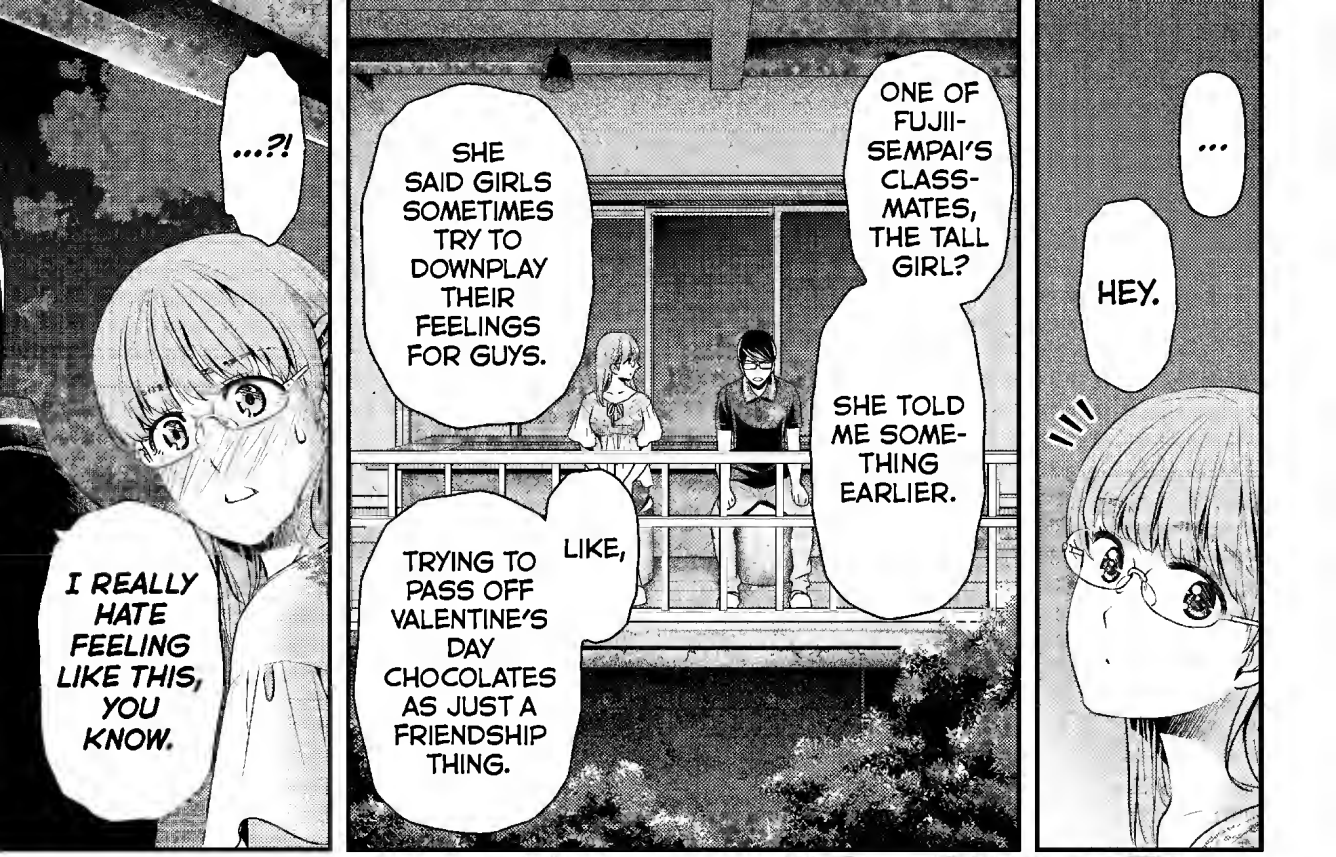
WE'RE BACK!

WELCOME BACK! TOOK YOU GUYS LONG ENOUGH!
HOW'D IT GO?!
NO, HOW FAR DID YOU GUYS GO?!

WHAAAT?
WE JUST GOT LOST, THAT'S ALL!
NOTHING HAPPENED, OKAY?!



SHIBA-SAKI-KUN?
KABA-SAWA...
...
...
CAN'T SLEEP EITHER?
WELL, YOU KNOW...
THE STARS SURE ARE PRETTY HERE, HUH?
YEAH.


...
HEY.
ONE OF FUJII-SEMPAI'S CLASS-MATES, THE TALL GIRL?
SHE TOLD ME SOME-THING EARLIER.
SHE SAID GIRLS SOMETIMES TRY TO DOWNPLAY THEIR FEELINGS FOR GUYS.
LIKE, TRYING TO PASS OFF VALENTINE'S DAY CHOCOLATES AS JUST A FRIENDSHIP THING.
...?!
I REALLY HATE FEELING LIKE THIS, YOU KNOW.

THIS LOOMING ANXIETY ...
IF I'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA, THEN I WANT YOU TO TELL ME.
IF I KEEP WASTING MY MENTAL ENERGY ON THIS POINTLESS WORRYING, MY WRITING'S GOING TO SUFFER.
THAT WAY, I WON'T GET MY HOPES UP,
AND IT'LL MAKE THINGS EASIER.
SO...

MOMO-SEMPAI WAS RIGHT.
YOU'RE SO DENSE.
YOU ACT TOUGH,
YOU'RE PROUD,
A CLOSET PERVERT ...
YOU GET JEALOUS EASILY,
AND POUT JUST AS QUICK-LY.

I'M PROBABLY THE ONLY GIRL IN THE WORLD...
...WHO'D FALL FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU, SHIBASAKI-KUN.
...
HEY! SAY SOME-THING, WILL YOU?
I... I DUNNO WHAT TO SAY...
SERIOUSLY ?!
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